News From SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE RHODE ISLAND



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COAST GUARD DEPLOYS CUTTER TO GREENWICH COVE

Ice Breaker Dispatched after Senator Chafee's Request on behalf of the State

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the Coast Guard intends to dispatch the Cutter BOLLARD to Greenwich Cove to undertake ice breaking operations this weekend. Senator Chafee contacted the Coast Guard after Governor Don Carcieri notified him of the State's request for assistance in breaking up the ice on behalf of local commercial ferry/fishermen.

"I was pleased to assist the shell fishermen in Greenwich and Apponaug Bays by securing the services of a Coast Guard ice breaker to break up the ice that has accumulated during this especially harsh winter. Working with Governor Carcieri and Mayor Avedisian, the Coast Guard has assured us that help is on the way to relieve some of the economic hardship that this deep freeze has caused," Chafee said.

The BOLLARD is currently committed to escort a home heating fuel delivery in Connecticut and will be released upon completion of that assignment. Weather permitting, it is anticipated that BOLLARD will arrive in the vicinity of Greenwich Cove late Sunday February 15th or early Monday February 16th. Ice breaking operations in the vicinity of Greenwich Cove and Apponaug Cove will be limited due to the depth of water and possibly due to the thickness of the ice. It is possible that BOLLARD may encounter ice which is beyond her capability to break (12+ inches) and the Cutter will not be able to assist in shallow areas where her navigational safety would be at risk.

For more information, contact LCDR Peter Martin, Operations Officer, US Coast Guard Group Woods Hole at 508 457-3224.